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# THE PERFECTION CURRANT

JUL 20 1923  
U. S. Department of Agriculture



## AWARDED THE BABY MEDAL,

The Fifty Dollar Gold Medal  
of the  
Western New York  
Horticultural Society,  
July, 1901,  
after three years trial.

The first fruit to receive  
this grand prize. Also re-  
ceived **HIGHEST AWARD**  
given any new fruit at the  
**PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.**

To whom it may concern:

This is to Certify that the **Perfection Currant**, grown by C. M. Hooker & Sons is  
photographed natural size.

Rochester, N. Y., July 19th, 1902.

SIGNED { J. A. WILLIAMSON,  
W. A. LOVELL, Mgr.

Now Introduced by **C. M. HOOKER & SONS,**

Nurserymen.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Established 1856.



# THE PERFECTION CURRANT.

gives us great pleasure to be able to offer to the public a limited number of plants of the Perfection Currant.

This grand new fruit was originated by Charles G. Hooker of our firm, by crossing the Prolific with the White Grape currant, with a view to combining the large size and color of the Fay with the good quality and productiveness of the White Grape.

From quite a number of plants of this cross, the Perfection was selected as the best, and after a trial on our grounds for a number of years, proved so satisfactory, and superior in many respects, combining as it does the good qualities of both parents, that we decided to enter it for the \$50 Gold Barry Medal of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society. We also sent plants of the Perfection to the N. Y. State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. for testing there, in competition with about sixty varieties in their trial block, including all the best varieties in cultivation. The result of the trial for four years at the station has been exceedingly satisfactory to us, Perfection coming out at the head of all introduced varieties on its general merits. We take pleasure in referring the reader to the letter of Prof. S. A. Beach, Horticulturist of the station, in regard to the Perfection. See third page.

## DESCRIPTION.

**The Color** is a beautiful bright red. **Size** as large or larger than the Fay, the clusters averaging longer. The size of berry is well maintained to the end of the bunch. The Perfection has a long stem from point of attachment to the bush to the first berry, making it is easy to pick without crushing any of the berries.

**Productiveness.** The Perfection is a great bearer, resembling its parent the White Grape in this respect, superior to the Fay or any other large sort with which we are acquainted.

On account of this great productiveness, the plants should be kept well cultivated and fertilized, as should all heavy bearers. Under these conditions they will regularly produce heavy crops of large fruit of the very best quality.

**The season of ripening** is about the same as that of the Cherry or Fay.

**Quality.** Rich, mild, sub-acid, plenty of pulp with few seeds. Less acid and of better quality than any other large currant in cultivation. The White Grape has always been considered one of the best varieties for table use, and the effect of this strain is plainly seen in the very fine quality of Perfection. (Read what Prof. Beach has to say about the quality of Perfection.)

**Vigor and Healthfulness.** In habit of growth it is intermediate between its parents Fay and White Grape, with remarkably large healthy foliage.



Fac Simile  
of Barry  
Medal.



## BARRY MEDAL.

The \$50 Gold Medal of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society.

There has been a standing offer of this medal by the society since 1891 to the originator of any new fruit of such superior merit as to be thought worthy of it by a committee, after three years trial and examination by them. The Perfection was duly entered for this medal and unanimously awarded it in July 1901, being the first fruit thought worthy to receive this great prize. The report of the committee is as follows:

## THE PERFECTION CURRANT.

Originated by C. G. Hooker, Rochester, N. Y. cross between Fay's Prolific and White Grape. Season of ripening same as Cherry and Fay. Color, bright red, a good grower. Size, very large, larger than Fay and Cherry. Clusters very long. Very productive resembling the White Grape in this respect. Quality, very fine. Not so acid as Fay and other red sorts. As a table currant cannot be surpassed. A very important fact is that it has a long stem from fruit to attachment to branch, making it easy to pick.

W. C. SMITH, Geneva, N. Y.

P. C. REYNOLDS, Rochester, N. Y. }

J. B. COLLAMER, Hilton, N. Y. }

Committee.





Fac Simile  
Pan-Am.  
Medal.



The Perfection also received this same year 1901, the highest award given any new fruit at the Pan-American Exposition. See letters from H. E. Van Deman and F. E. Dawley.

We have the Perfection in fruiting on our grounds beside the Fay's Prolific, President Wilder, Cherry, Red Cross, Pomona and other sorts, and will be pleased to show its superiority to all interested during the fruiting season. It has now fruited with us for a number of years, and has never failed to produce large crops of fruit of the finest quality. We therefore feel justified in introducing the Perfection with great confidence as worthy of extensive trial, believing it has a great future before it.

For description and opinions of its merits we can not do better than refer to the report of the committee of the Western N. Y. Horticultural Society and the letters of a few well known nurserymen and horticulturists who have seen and tested the Perfection.

Agricultural Experiment Station,

Geneva, N. Y., July 6, 1901.

Dear Sirs—Cuttings of the Perfection Currant were furnished to this station in 1897, for the purpose of testing the variety. The plants have made a moderately strong growth. Although they have not yet reached full size, or mature habit of growth, they are very productive. In form of bush and health and vigor of foliage, the Perfection is intermediate between its parents, Fay and White Grape. The fruit is borne along the old wood much like that of the White Grape. On the average the size of cluster and size of berry both exceed that of Fay and so far as I know equal that of any variety which has yet been disseminated. The fruit is usually uniformly large to the tip of the cluster. Its largest berries are fully equal to the largest of the Comet. While on the average its fruit is not quite so large as that of the Comet, its clusters average longer. The pulp is less seedy and considerably better in quality. The stem of the cluster is free from berries near its attachment to the plant, thus making it easy to pick. The color is a good red, somewhat lighter than the Fay. In flavor and quality I consider it distinctly better than Fay or Cherry. In fact I do not know of any other large currant in cultivation that is its equal in this respect. It ripens about with Fay and Cherry. Taking all things into consideration I do not hesitate to pronounce it a most excellent variety for either home use or market.

Very truly yours, S. A. BEACH,  
Horticulturist.

Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., July 28, 1902.

My Dear Sirs—The specimens of currants you sent me by mail for some time before they were opened. Therefore, I was unable to sample them when they were in a fresh condition. The clusters when they were opened were unusually large and the berries were very attractive. Fine, fine, and struck me as being very attractive. From what I saw of them I should judge it to be a most promising sort.

Yours very truly,  
L. H. BAILLIE,  
Prof. of Horticulture, Cornell University

Geneva, N. Y., July 17, 1902.

Gentlemen—We are in receipt of your favor of the 14th; also sample of Perfection Currant. We think you have selected a good name for the currant, as it is about as near the ideal currant as any we have seen, having large berries, long bunch, and we take your word for its being the great cropper that you say it is. We are pleased to have an opportunity to see the fruit.

Very truly yours, W. & T. SMITH CO.

Syracuse, N. Y., July 17, 1902.

Gentlemen—We are in receipt of your favor of the 15th with the sample of Perfection Currants, which certainly are large, handsome, and of good flavor. We should regard this as a very great acquisition, and it should be popular and bring you a good financial return.

Yours truly, SMITHS & POWELL.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26, 1902.

Gentlemen—I have watched your new Currant, called Perfection, with interest, and it appears to me to be an introduction of much value.

Yours truly, W. C. BARRY,  
Pres't of Ellwanger & Barry Co.,  
Mt. Hope Nurseries

Rochester, N. Y., March 3, 1902.

Gentlemen—Agreeable with your request I am pleased to record the fact that I have the opportunity for several successive seasons of seeing your new Perfection Currant as grown on your home grounds. Its good qualities impressed me very favorably. Its large size, long clusters, handsome red color, productiveness and superb quality, make it a valuable acquisition. The bushes were healthy, and you will remember, bore a fine crop of fruit.

Yours truly, JOHN HALL.

Batavia, N. Y., March 12, 1902.

Dear Sirs—Am glad to hear that on exhibition at the Pan-American I was particularly well pleased with your exhibit of the Perfection Currant. The clusters were long and well filled with large, beautiful and highly flavored fruit.

Yours very truly, NELSON BOGUE.

Geneva, N. Y., July 14, 1899.

Dear Sirs—We received from you on the 10th a sample of your Perfection Currant, which we can immediately say, is one of the best currants we have seen for this season of the year. Its large size, its fine clusters, and its general appearance, permits us to truthfully say that it is worthy of dissemination; and as soon as you have it for sale, we would like to purchase some plants for our trial grounds.

Yours very truly,  
E. SMITH & SONS.

Painesville, O., July 16, 1902.

Gentlemen—We are in receipt of your sample box of Perfection Currants, for which accept thanks. It certainly is of fine quality and a fine bunch and berry. We are much pleased with the fruit, and if it is a good grower and producer, it is all right. Would be glad to receive circulars when issued.

Yours truly,  
THE STORRS & HARRISON CO.



Rochester, N. Y., August 16, 1901.

My Dear Sir—I am very much pleased to hear that you have been awarded the Barry Medal, of the Western New York Horticultural Society for your new red Currant Perfection. I am sure the committee has made no mistake, as the variety has real merit, and you are to be congratulated on producing so good a thing. As I saw it growing on your place side by side with Cherry, Fay's Prolific, North Star, Prince Albert, Pomona, Wilder and others, it certainly outclassed them all and will take a large place in the popular heart as it is not only a great cropper but much sweeter and more pleasant to the taste than other sorts.

Respectfully yours,

CHAS. J. BROWN,

Pres't. of Brown Bros. Co., Continental Nurseries

Pan-American Exposition, July 12, 1901.

Dear Sirs—Your favor at hand. The Currants came through in fine shape, and are the largest of anything we have had so far. Have entered them as you suggested. Will you send more later to keep up the display?

Yours, F. E. DAWLEY,

Asst't Supt N. Y. State Hort. Exhibit.

Pan-American Exposition, July 25, 1901.

Dear Sirs—Your recent letters have been received, also two lots of specimens of new Currant, which you have named "Perfection." All of them have been carefully examined by me, and I am glad to say that there have been no better specimens of any variety of this fruit shown here. However we have had several new varieties, and some of them were exceedingly fine. Your exhibit has been properly entered by Mr. Dawley.

Yours sincerely, H. E. VAN DEMAN,

Pomological Juror.

Rochester, March 4, 1902.

Dear Sirs—Last summer I had the pleasure of seeing your new Currant Perfection in fruiting on your grounds in Brighton. I was very favorably impressed with its good qualities. Its large size, good color and productiveness make it a very desirable Currant for either home use or for market. Wishing you much success in its introduction I am, Yours very truly,

LEWIS CHASE,

Pres't of Chase Bros. Co., New England Nurseries

Baltimore, Md., July 16, 1902.

Dear Sirs—Your favor of the 14th, also sample box of Perfection Currants was received in good condition. They are as large if not larger than any variety we have ever seen, and the quality is excellent, and if productive it should certainly be a money maker. Yours truly,

FRANKLIN DAVIS NURSERY CO.

Shenandoah, Ia., July 16, 1902.

Gentlemen—Sample of your Perfection Currant received. It is certainly quite an acquisition to the currant list, the fruit being large and of uniform size and quality good.

Respectfully, D. S. LAKE.

Geneva, N. Y., July 16, 1902.

Gentlemen—Your favor of the 14th, also sample box of Perfection Currants at hand, for which I thank you. Judging from the size and quality of the berry and length of cluster, it would seem to be a valuable acquisition. I shall be pleased to have a circular in relation to it and to get prices on it as soon as you issue them.

Yours truly, H. E. MERRILL.

We have but a limited number of plants of perfection to offer for delivery, fall of 1902 and spring of 1903. Orders will be booked and filled at the following prices so long as the supply remains unsold. No. 1 plants, 1 year old each; \$10 per dozen, \$5 per one-half dozen. In order to protect our customers from unscrupulous dealers we have decided to send the Perfection out under our own sal. See that each plant bears the following seal.

Perfection.

C.M.H.&S.

VREDENBURG & CO.,  
ROCHESTER N. Y.

Geneva, N. Y., March 18, 1902.

Gentlemen—In reply to your letter would say the Perfection Currant you had on exhibition at the Pan-American attracted a great degree of attention, and I regret it as being one of the best of the new Currants I have had the opportunity of testing. It seems to me any one desiring a good currant for family use can do no better than to make an investment in this fruit. Therefore it affords me much pleasure to commend it to the public.

Yours very truly, S. D. WILLARD.

Danville, N. Y., July 22, 1902.

Dear Sir—Your favor of the 15th, and samples of currants both came duly to hand. I have to thank you for your kindness in permitting me to see your new currant, in which I am greatly interested. It certainly has remarkable size and beauty and seems to merit all, and more than all I said of it. I am glad that the first Barry Medal should go to such a meritorious introduction, and I heartily congratulate you on having the honor of producing so good a thing.

Very sincerely yours,

GEO. A. SWEET.

Fredonia, N. Y., July 19, 1902.

Gentlemen—Yours of the 15th received, also a sample box of your new Currant Perfection, which arrived in good condition. The berries are of good size and also the clusters. The skin seems to be thin but firm, and we notice the seeds separate readily. This new currant ought to be a valuable acquisition to our list of currants.

Yours truly,

T. S. HUBBARD CO.

New Carlisle, O., July 17, 1902.

Dear Sirs—The sample bunches of Perfection Currant came to hand and we are much pleased with them. They resemble Red Cross some in appearance. The quality is first-class. If it is prolific you certainly have a good thing, as the fruit is certainly fine.

Very respectfully,

W. N. SCARFF.

Princeton, Ill., July 18, 1902.

Gentlemen—Your favor of the 14th received, also samples of Perfection Currants. Must say that the specimens are very fine, and if fruit continues to equal the sample, and the bush is strong and vigorous it will be a great acquisition to our list of currants. What we need is a currant with fruit of the size of Cherry and Fay, with long clusters and a strong vigorous bush that will stand up well from the ground. Hope that you have it. We shall want some plants for our Experiment station for testing. Wishing you much success with the new venture, I am, Yours truly,

ARTHUR BRYANT.

Extract from Country Gentleman of July 24, 1902.

The Perfection Currant.—Messrs C. M. H. & S. of Rochester, N. Y., send us clusters of the currant introduced by them, the Perfection. It is a very large, handsome fruit, the average size of four inches in length, bearing old Cherry or larger. It was hard enough to judge of the flavor, or color, as it had not reached its full depth. This apparent received the \$50.00 gold Barry Medal of the Western New York Horticultural Society, and the highest award to any new fruit at the Pan-American Exposition.